

specific rank or is better treated as a variety of *C. odoratus* L. In New England it seems distinct morphologically as well as in respect to range and habitat preference. Here it appears to be confined to alluvial soils well removed from salt water, whereas *C. odoratus* is generally found in saline or brackish situations, and only along the coast as far northeastward as Essex County, Massachusetts. Elsewhere in North America the former is conspicuously inland in its distribution, whereas the latter is primarily coastal as far west as the mouth of the Mississippi River. There is some overlap in range northward along the edges of the Mississippi River valley and particularly beyond its western side (South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and thence westward to Southern California). Furthermore, *C. odoratus* is semi-cosmopolitan (North and South America, eastern Asia), whereas *C. ferruginescens* is confined, I believe, to North America. Unless close study has demonstrated the existence of intergrading forms in the areas of overlap, it seems better to maintain them as separate species. RICHARD J. EATON, LINCOLN, MASSACHUSETTS.

AN UNUSUAL RUBUS. The subgenus *Eubatus* of the genus *Rubus* contains such a variable assemblage of entities that it is not unusual to find a plant that cannot be identified. However, the blackberry to be described in this note presents some unusual features. On July 21, 1961 in the town of Altamont, New York, I found a *Rubus* with an unusual inflorescence in an old field near the edge of a bog. The flowers were small, about the size of a blossom of *R. hispidus*, but many were of a type often referred to as "double", with 10-15 petals of various sizes, apparently representing altered stamens. This plant did not fit any blackberry described in Gray's Manual, Eighth Edition, but seemed to fall in the section Tholiformes, and in the key came closest to the group that included *R. biformispinus*, *R. grandidens* and *R. arcuans*. However, it differed from all of these plants in several ways. It seemed more probable that it was of hybrid origin.



In an effort to determine the putative parents, eight samples of primocanes and floricanes were collected and growth habit notes made for each one individually. Later various measurements were made. The following characteristics were noted: growth habit from trailing to doming to erect up to  $2\frac{1}{2}'$ ; armature consisting of stiff prickles, acicular prickles, bristles and glands, length of longest prickle up to 5 mm., number of all types of armature combined from 200 to 800 per dm.; primocane leaflets uniformly dull, subcoriaceous, length from 5.5 to 7.0 cm., number of leaflets ranging from 3 to 5, ratio of width to length from .65 to .8, broadest part of leaf at the middle or well above the middle; inflorescence resembling *R. hispidus* or *R. setosus*.

On the basis of these characters it was not possible to form a positive conclusion as to the origin of the blackberry. The leaflet shape and number seemed to be derived from *R. hispidus*, the armature from *R. elegantulus* and *R. setosus*. Other characters could have come from one or more of these three species, all of which were in the vicinity. Extensive field observations have convinced me that these species hybridize frequently.

A specimen of this blackberry has been deposited in the Herbarium of the University of New Hampshire.

FREDERICK L. STEELE, ST. MARY'S-IN-THE-MOUNTAINS, LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

WESTERN PLAINS PLANTS IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS<sup>1</sup> — A number of western plants are established on a gravel bluff prairie, known locally as Bell Bowl prairie, in southern Winnebago County, in Greater Rockford Airport a few miles south of Rockford, Illinois. They can be divided into two groups.

One group is composed of annual or perennial plants that are being spread by seed and are found over the county and over the state. Among them are such more or less common species as *Agropyron smithii* Rydb., *Froelichia gracilis* Moq., *Solanum rostratum* Dunal, *Artemisia dracunculoides* Pursh

<sup>1</sup>Contribution of the Evelyn I. Fernald Memorial Herbarium of Rockford College.